

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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: Examiner: Unassigned  
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: Group Art Unit: 2853  
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: February 22, 2002  
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed.

of relevance for the non-

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents may be found in the specification at pages 2, 4 and 8. English language abstracts of these documents are attached to their respective copies. In addition, U.S. Patent

Nos. 5,635,291 and 5,846,647 correspond to JP 7-232475, and  
U.S. Patent No. 5,734,403 corresponds to JP 6-99656.

#### FORMAL MATTERS

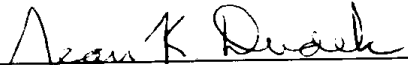
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a certificate, petition nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

#### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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